



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:)
Howle et al.)
Serial No.: 09/916,355) Examiner: Fortuna, Jose A.
Filed: July 27, 2001) Art Unit: 1731
Confirmation No.: 7567) Docket No.: A148 1571
For: FIBROUS SHEET ENHANCEMENT)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132
OF MATTHEW HOWLE**

1. I, Mathew Howle, am a citizen of the United States of America, and my residence and post office address is 15 Pierson Drive, Hockessin, DE 19707.

2. I received my Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maine in 1987.

3. I have been employed by Hercules Incorporated of Wilmington, Delaware since 1987 until the present where I currently serve as a Business Redesign Project Leader.

4. I am the co-inventor of the present application and am familiar with the chemistry of the same.

5. The latex of the present invention is combined first with the cationic resin such that the latex will function as a flexing component which hinders the crosslinking of the cationic resin. The next step that must follow the step of adding the cationic resin is the addition of the anionic polymer which adds a negative charge to the fibrous slurry which aids in the formation of the complex that imparts both durability and strength in the finished fibrous sheet. The cationic polymer must be added first followed by the anionic polymers with the unexpected result being the formation of a complex that imparts increased strength and durability.

Respectfully submitted,

September 26, 2003

Date

Mathew Howle

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